



MDT- Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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July 1999

## Kalispell Airshow A Big Success

The Glacier Park International Air Show On June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> attracted over 34,000 people, most of whom came to see the always magnificent Navy flight demonstration team, the Blue Angels and their one of a kind aerial ballet. The weather for the airshow was almost perfect, with clear skies and a slight breeze, and thanks to great planning, traffic in and out-flows went smooth and food and drink concession booths were always handy.

A massive number of static displays provided just the right thing to give patrons something to do when not staring skyward, enthralled with the aerial acts. Some of the aerial stunts were quite spectacular, including wing walkers, aerobatic champions, formation flying and, of course, the obligatory slapstick aerial comedy act. In addition to the stunt flying, several warbird fly-bys awed the crowd. Jim Smith, a local area pilot and warbird collector had several of his aircraft on display, including the hard to find favorites, the P-40 warhawk, P-51 Mustang and the F-4U Corsair.

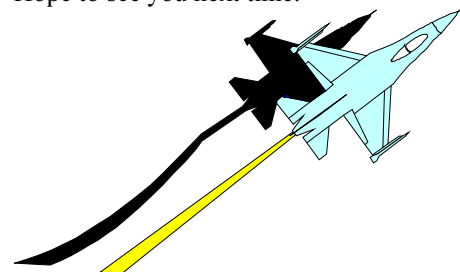


In addition to a static display, Jim crawled into the cockpit of several of the warbirds, fired them up, and once airborne, gave the crowds a look through time with his high speed warbird passes.

Just when the excitement was at a peak and the crowds were ready came the fi-

nal act. And who else could top a one of a kind airshow, well the Blue Angels of course, and their one of a kind flight demonstration. This was the first time the Blue Angels had performed in Montana using the F-18 Hornet, an ultra sleek and state of the art, carrier based fighter. The gracefulness of the F-18 is only matched by the ultimate precision of the Navy pilots with their hands on the controls. The Blue Angels performed once each day and left the umbrella toting, slightly sunburned and thirsty multitudes in awe. A spectacular finish to a wonderful day.

Hats off to the Glacier Park International Airport, the staff, the many volunteers and performers to a job well done. Hopefully it won't be as long of a hiatus before Montana will once again sees an airshow of that caliber. Hope to see you next time.



# Administrator's Column

## **AIR 21 Passes U.S. House Of Representatives:**

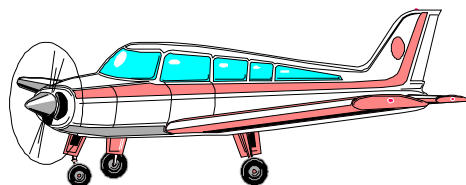
The Aviation Investment and Reform act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (HR 1000) commonly referred to as "AIR-21 introduced by Rep Bud Shuster (R-PA) scored a huge victory in the U.S. House of Representatives with a 316 to 110 vote. Rep Shuster's bill provides sharply increased funding for the FAA and takes The Airport and Airway Trust Fund out of the general fund budget and ensures that aviation taxes be used exclusively for their intended purposes. Rep Shuster used the same tactics in lobbying his peers as he successfully used last year to win approval to ensure that Highway Trust Fund revenues are used for highway projects. Air-21 would create an oversight board which will oversee management of the FAA's air traffic control system; includes provisions of the "Hoover Bill" which will curb the FAA's misuse of their emergency revocations by providing FAA certificate holders an appeal process before the National Transportation Safety Board prior to certificate revocation; and does NOT provide for new USER FEES! Rep Shuster stated "this bill will help to modernize our air traffic control systems, reduce delays and spur competition." He said AIR-21 "restores honesty to the federal budget by forcing the government to preserve aviation ticket taxes for aviation improvements. We pay a tax every time we fly and now we will have those taxes invested in making our skies safer and our airports more efficient." Rep Shuster's Air-21 received strong support from the national aviation organizations. National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) President Henry Ogrodzinski stated "We are elated that the House embraced this golden opportunity to make a significant investment in America's aviation infrastructure." NASAO was one of many aviation organizations who brought members to Washington, DC to lobby in support of AIR-21. Now AIR-21 is in the U.S. Senate where powerful Senator John McCain (R-AZ), chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee is expected to mount opposition. Sen McCain, as usual, sides with the Clinton administration in opposing taking the Trust Fund out of the general fund budget and supporting implementation of new "USER FEES". If Sen McCain (and others) is successful in blocking AIR-21 in the Senate, another (the fourth) short term temporary extension of the FAA reauthorization will be necessary. There is speculation that opponents of AIR-21 would

like to delay action on the bill until after this year because Rep Shuster's tenure at Transportation Committee chairman will end. The passage of AIR-21 is vital to the welfare of the entire U.S. aviation infrastructure and (if you agree) it is important to let our Montana Senators know how you feel. Both Senators Baucus and Burns have 800 telephone numbers listed.

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## **New FAA Rules Hurt Small Repair Stations:**

The FAA has released it's new long-awaited repair station rules in a proposed revision to Part 145. The proposed rules are of great concern to the small repair stations as FAA has ignored the comments from previous drafts and imposes large company standards on all repair stations. Jim Coyne, President of the National Air Transportation Association (NATA) stated "With this NPRM, the FAA has chosen to ignore the smaller general aviation repair stations that have limited financial and personnel resources." The proposal mandates that repair stations regardless of size or number of employees set up a ISO-9000 type quality control program, publish a detailed repair station manuals, audit and provide technical direction to subcontractors, and institute an FAA approved initial and recurrent training program for all employees, along with keeping detailed permanent records on its own operations and those of its subcontractors. Ric Peri, NATA Manager of Technical Services explained "You simply can't dictate certain procedures that, while appropriate for large repair stations with hundreds of employees, are virtually impossible – financially and managerially – for a small repair shop with a few employees." Peri said that the FAA must take into consideration the thousands of small businesses that would be affected by this action. "It is vital that a distinction be made between those repair stations which service the airlines and those serving the non-airline, general aviation community."



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Marv Dye, Director

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Michael D. Ferguson  
Administrator

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Patty Kautz



# Northwest Expands Air Service

Senator Conrad Burns announced that Northwest Airlines has agreed to increase its air service to Montana by adding several year-round and seasonal flights to assist travelers in Bozeman, Kalispell and Missoula.

Kalispell, which currently receives only seasonal summer service from Northwest, will see the addition of two daily, year-round, "tag" flights to Minneapolis via Great Falls.

In Missoula, Northwest will complement its summer flights to Minneapolis by adding two daily seasonal flights during the winter months too. These flights will also have one stop in Great Falls.

Bozeman, which currently has two non-stop flights during its peak tourist times in the summer and winter months, will have a third non-stop flight to Minneapolis added during these seasonal periods as well.

Earlier this summer, Burns hosted a meeting in Bozeman with community leaders and representatives from Delta Airlines. During the meeting Delta assured participants that the travel needs of Montana are part of their long-term service vision.

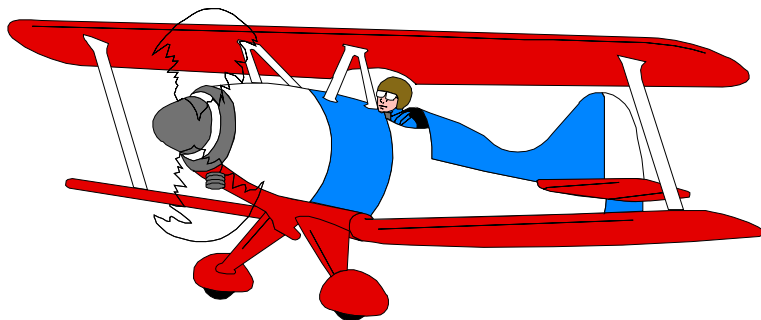
## MAAA Fly-in To Have Control Tower

The Montana Antique Airplane Association Fly-in at Progreba Field in Three Forks August 5-8 will have a control tower this year. Frequency is 123.9 (122.8 will be monitored and pilots will be directed to switch over when the tower is in operation).

Hours of operation will be 10AM to 7 PM on Thursday, August 5; 7 AM to 7 PM on Friday, August 6; 7AM to 7PM on Saturday, August 7; and 7 AM to noon on Sunday, August 8. 122.8 will be used when the tower is not in operation.

Non-radio aircraft are requested to orbit the water tank two miles east of the airport. Stay above pattern altitude and wait for light signals. An alternative orbit point is Fort Three Forks, the motel at the intersection of Route 287 and I-90. Aircraft cleared to land by light signal will have the option to land on the pavement or the sod.

Helena tower chief Terry Fogelstrom and Dave Mason and Paul Mousseau (also from the Helena tower) will be the controllers. Visitors are welcome at the tower.



## Biplanes Visit Helena

Red Baron Pizza's four-ship squadron of open cockpit Stearman biplanes stopped in Helena enroute to the Great Falls International Airport in mid-June. The aircraft were in Great Falls for two days for a fundraiser for Easter Seals and Goodwill.

The Stearman is the type of aircraft flown by the legendary World War I ace The Red Baron.

A portion of the proceeds from Red Baron pizza sales in Great Falls was also donated to Easter Seals and Goodwill.



## Calendar

**July 16 – 18** – Schafer Meadows Annual Work Session.

**July 16 - 18** - CAP Search & Rescue Training Exercise, Three Forks Airport 888-454-3287 for info.

**July 16 – 18** – Miles City Fly-in and Antique Show.

**July 16 – 18** – EAA Family Fly-in and trade show, West Yellowstone Airport.

**July 28 – August 3** – EAA AirVenture Fly-in and Convention, Oshkosh, WI.

**August 2 – 6** - CAP'S Aerospace Challenge For Youth, Missoula 888-454-3287 for info.

**August 5 – 8** – MAAA Fly-in, Pogreba Field, 123.9 Tower, Three Forks.

**August 6 – 8** - Montana CAP State Conference, Missoula 888-454-3287 for info.

**August 6 – 8** – Sixth Annual Splash In – Fly In, Stillwater Landing.

**August 27 – 28** - CAP Search & Rescue Training Exercise, Kalispell, 888-454-3287 for info.

**August 28** – Polson Airport Grand Opening and Fly-in, various dignataries, airplane rides and static display. Call Tom at 883-9392 for info.

**September 17 – 19** – Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, Kalispell.

**September 18** – Aerotronics Annual Open House, Billings.

**September 24 – 26** – Montana Pilots Association Fall Fly-in, Great Falls.

**October 21 – 23** – AOPA Expo'99, Atlantic City, NJ.

**November 6** – AOM Board Meeting, Helena.

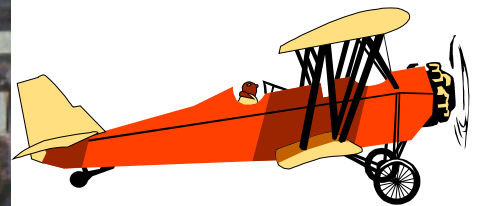
**March 2-4, 2000** – Montana Aviation Conference, Billings.



# MAAA Air Tour

The Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) conducted its annual air tour in early June. Wanda Rickman, Secretary for the organization was the air tour coordinator and did a great job setting up an enjoyable tour.

More than 40 aircraft gathered in Columbus for a BBQ dinner at Rickman Aircraft. The next morning the group departed for Hardin and joined Hardin area pilots for coffee before travelling on to Sheridan for lunch. The aircraft then stopped in Buffalo for afternoon snacks and on to Douglas for the evening. In Douglas, the antiquers were treated to a Milk Can Cookout!



The next morning after departing Douglas the crew flew to Casper and toured the War Birds Museum. Then it was on to Lander for lunch and to Termopolis for an overnight stop.

The last day of the tour found the aircraft in Worland for coffee, Greybull for lunch and on to Cody for an evening of fun.

Before returning for home, the group were treated to breakfast by the Cody EAA Chapter.

Thanks to Wanda and all the wonderful folks along the way who participated in making this air tour a success.



*The MAAA Air Tour is a time for old and new friends to gather, enjoy flying, visit new airports and areas and to meet new fellow aviators along the way. Larry and LaLonnne Larson and group provided entertainment at the opening function in Columbus. Camping under your aircraft wings was available to tour goes along the route and taken advantage of by many.*





# Beacon Star Father's Day Fly-in Breakfast

*A gorgeous summer morning brought more than 70 aircraft and 200 persons to the Beacon Star Airfield located near Moore, MT. The airfield is home to Patty and Frank Bass who each year host breakfast for aviators and many others who arrive to enjoy the beautiful scenery, good company and a hearty breakfast.*



*Slaving over the cookstove are Roy Hollandsworth, John Gordon and host Frank Bass. Frank's famous poorboy sourdough pancakes are always a hit! Below, Senator Conrad Burns, Sam Langhus, Frank Bass and Lt. Governor Judy Martz enjoy a chat and a cup of coffee. The Bass' were surprised and honored to have the Senator and Lt. Governor arrive.*

*Aleida Alvarez celebrated Father's Day with her father Dr. Faust Alvarez. The two flew to Beacon Star with John Maxness, Exec Air Helena, together with Lt. Governor Judy Martz and husband Harry and Russell Schmitt (l to r). Roy Hollandsworth takes a break from cooking with Senator Conrad Burns.*





# Benchmark Airstrip Receives Maintenance

The annual Benchmark Work Session was held in early June this year. The work weekend was pushed back one week from Memorial Day weekend to help avoid conflict with graduations, weather and the holiday weekend.



*Above, Lanny Hanson sprays weeds which is an ongoing process at the airstrip. After a days work these volunteers gather around the campfire for a bit of R&R.*

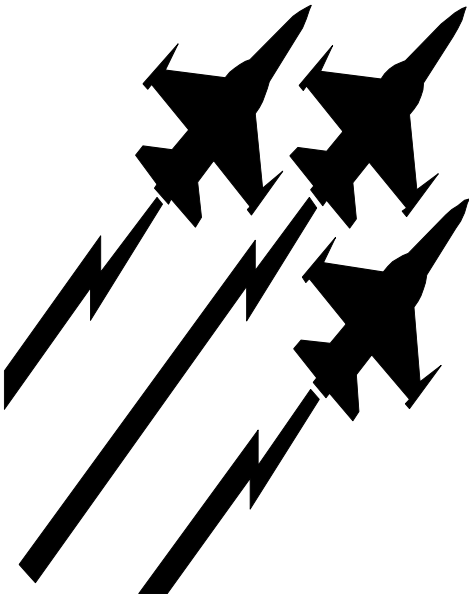


The airstrip is located just west of the Bob Marshall Wilderness area, 30 miles west of Augusta in the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

Volunteers gathered to provide annual maintenance to the area which included new windsocks, weed spraying, firewood cutting, fencing and campground and trail maintenance.

Benchmark Airfield was constructed in 1966 through a joint venture between the Montana Aeronautics Commission, the United States Forest Service and the FAA. The airfield boasts paved tiedown areas and a paved runway (6,000' x 100') and is owned by the United States Forest Service.

*Aircraft line the runway at the annual work session. Below, Dennis Lenoir watches and awaits dinner as Chef Rick Kraft takes a turn at the stove.*





# Miles City SAR Training

Miles City Air Search and Rescue Training Session was conducted on June 18 & 19, 1999. Monte Reder, Lonnie Leslie and Tom Falconer are the coordinators for air SAR in Miles City that is the 9<sup>th</sup> district of the 14 district Montana search system. The counties that are in district # 9 are; Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Powder River, Carter, Fallon, Prairie and Wibaux.

On Friday evening, June 19<sup>th</sup> Jeanne Lesnik presented the Montana Search System and the observer slide program at the Miles City Community College. Twenty-five pilots and observers attended the program.

On Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> pilots and observers gathered at the Miles City airport for a pilot briefing and ELT homing brief. The Miles

City pilots went to a great deal of work to put this training session together. On Friday Lonnie Leslie, Alvin Hirsch and Monte Reder put two aircraft wreckages in two different search grids. On Saturday morning Kathy Leslie put the practice emergency locator transmitter (ELT) in a third grid. With the three different search objects out in the Miles City area, pilots and observers were given the opportunity to search, track and locate the various objects.

Both the pilots and the observers felt this to be a very useful SAR training session,



looking for the aircraft wreckage was not as easy as they had anticipated and homing in on the ELT takes some practice. We at Montana Aeronautics would like to put this exercise to work at all of the 14 districts.

Thank you to the Miles City Hangar and to all the pilots and observers that participated.



*Above, Lonnie Leslie briefs the pilots on their grid assignments. At left, District 9 pilots are given a demonstration on mounting of the strut direction finding antenna.*

## USPA Visits

Members of the United States Pilots Association (USPA) rendezvoused in Great Falls on their way to the USPA annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. The USPA is a national pilots organization of affiliated state pilots organizations. The USPA works with state organizations to promote general aviation, airport, safety and education.

The groups launch preparation dinner meeting included discussion and coordination for the flight to Alaska. Senator Conrad Burns joined the group, gave a warm welcome to Montana and provided a briefing of aviation issues of interest on the national level.

Also attending were Jack Gillespie, President of the Montana Pilots Association; Loren Smith and Jane Mart of the Great Falls MPA Hangar and Mike Ferguson.



*Jan Hoynacki, Executive Director of the USPA from Branson, Missouri thanks Senator Conrad Burns for sharing time with the USPA .*

# Montana Teacher and CAP Member Earns Award

At the 1999 National Congress on Aviation and Space Education (NCASE), Captain Kaye Ebelt of Missoula was presented with the *Excellence in Aviation Education Award* by the General Aviation and Manufacturers Association (GAMA).



Captain Ebelt received the award for a program she developed which incorporates various aerospace topics into the overall subject of social studies. She utilizes this program both in her classroom at Target Range Middle School and also in the Civil Air Patrol cadet program.

Brigadier General James C. Bobick, the National Commander of CAP, attended the NCASE to present the award from GAMA to Captain Ebelt.

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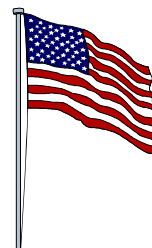
## Short Final

**Ground:** "12 Alpha, turn right on hotel, taxi to parking. Bear left, disabled aircraft on the right."

**12Alpha:** "Roger, I have the disabled aircraft in sight...looking for the bear."

One 10-year-old girl in a crowd of Young Eagles wanted to look at the aircraft's instrument panel. While standing in awe, she turned to her classmates and said, "If we want to be pilots, we are going to have to stay in school a long time. Do you see all these clocks up here?"

Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.



## July 1999

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